

October 26, 2005

FCC Commission
RE: FCC Docket 05-235

I feel that the proposal to eliminate the code requirement for obtaining an Amateur Radio Operators License would be a big mistake.

One of the basic statements for the existence of Amateur Radio as contained in FCC rules part 97.1(a) is: "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the Amateur service to the public as a voluntary non-commercial communications service particularly with respect to providing emergency communications".

The simplest way to modulate a radio transmitter is to turn the RF carrier on and off. Using morse code in this way allows communications from one point to another with the simplest of equipment. This could be all that is available in time of an emergency or disaster. Code signals can be sent and received by equipment that can be built or rebuilt from far more complex equipment that has failed. Skill with the use of code is required in order to take advantage of this means of communicating. Morse code is like using another language. It has to be learned and practiced in order for one to be able to use it. It is another tool to be used to good advantage whenever needed. This skill should be encouraged and promoted by staying a requirement for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses. I feel that it is a necessary tool to accomplish the earlier stated goal of "providing emergency communications".

Respectfully Submitted

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